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Letter dated 12 January 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea addressed to the President of the Security Council

Eritrea expresses deep concern and disappointment at the ongoing attempt by certain members of the Council to adopt a resolution in relation to a question of "Djibouti-Eritrea" on the basis of unfounded accusations against Eritrea.

The Eritrean people have not forgotten when Eritrea was unjustly and irresponsibly federated with Ethiopia in 1952, under a General Assembly resolution, due to geopolitical interests of certain powerful nations and against its wishes and aspirations for independence like any other African State that was under European colonization. The silence of the United Nations on the abrogation of the federal system in 1962 in violation of General Assembly resolution 390 (V) of 2 December 1950, under the pressure of certain Powers, that led to the 30 years of suffering of the Eritrean people until the country was liberated in 1991 is also still vivid in the minds of the Eritreans.

It is saddening, once again, to witness silence on the part of the Security Council at Ethiopia's rejection of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission's award, in accordance with the Algiers Peace Agreements, and the continued occupation by Ethiopia of sovereign Eritrean territories under the influence of some members. It is regrettable that Eritrea is falling victim for the fourth time to political intrigues of major Powers by manufacturing a "Djibouti-Eritrea border conflict" and attempting to make it a common feature in the works of the Security Council under the agenda item of "Peace and security in Africa".

The condemnation of Eritrea in June, followed by the dispatching of a fact-finding mission to our subregion, which essentially translates into putting the cart before the horse, has clearly demonstrated how certain members of the Council are bent on pursuing national interests with little or no regard to the facts on the ground and to the maintenance of regional peace and security. Eritrea has not occupied any land that belongs to Djibouti and it cannot accept a resolution that demands the "withdrawal of its forces" from its own territory.

Eritrea urges the Security Council members to exercise utmost caution before considering a draft text that aims to stir and internationalize a conflict between two sisterly countries that are capable of resolving any differences that might occur.

I would be most grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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